

1962/63

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MUSCADINE GRAPES

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A Catalog and Handbook of Choicest Varieties

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Owen's Vineyard

M. Aubrey Owen, Proprietor
Highway 85, 4 Miles North of
GAY, GEORGIA





DEAR FRIENDS:

OWEN'S VINEYARD has pioneered in developing healthy heavy-bearing plants of all the famous varieties of Muscadine Grapes (*Vitis Rotundifolia*) suited for growth in the Southland. Scuppernong is the most popular and widely disseminated variety of Muscadine.

More than one hundred forty varieties, each with distinct flavor, growing characteristics and maturing period are in cultivation at Owen's Vineyard. Only selected, well-rooted vines are offered for sale, all guaranteed to be true to name.

Several thousand seedling plants are being grown in test vineyards. These seedlings will be selected and used in continued breeding work for developing even better varieties than it is now possible to offer. As these new varieties are introduced, information about them will be made available. We have the new varieties of eight to ten years from now, growing under observation, so we can give you first hand information about them. Never buy seedlings of Muscadine grapes. Seedlings do not produce fruit true to the parent stock. All vines offered for sale by Owen's Vineyard are reproduced asexually and are well rooted.

This booklet is offered to cover general information concerning vineyard plans and culture for the buyer. We shall be glad to assist the buyer in selecting the best varieties for a home or commercial vineyard.

OWEN'S VINEYARD

M. Aubrey Owen

M. Aubrey Owen, Proprietor
Gay, Georgia

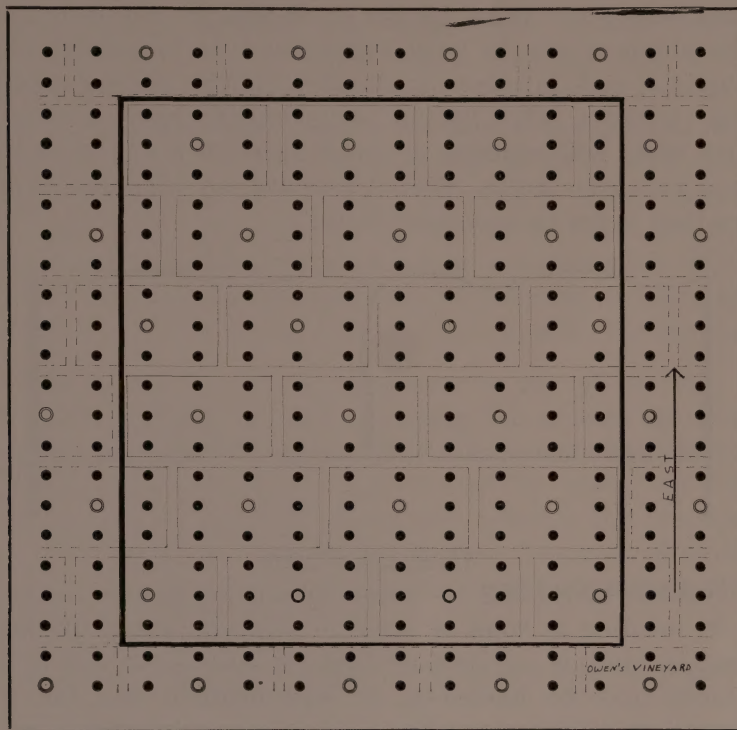
CULTURE

PLANTING TIME — Muscadine grapes may be set any time from November 15th to March 15th, or while dormant. The best time for planting is in December or January. This gives time for winter rains to settle the soil around the roots of the plants. Plants grown in cans may be planted any time of year but cannot be shipped.

SOIL TYPE and FERTILIZER — Muscadine Grapes are adapted to almost any well-drained fertile soil where winter temperatures do not drop below zero degrees Fahrenheit. Planting on upland is recommended. Better yields may be expected from black or sandy soil. Red land will produce fruit of richer flavor. The use of manure, the first two years, is highly recommended. The first-year plants should receive a growing fertilizer which is high in nitrogen, such as 8-8-8. Have the soil tested to show any deficiency. Apply commercial fertilizer to correct the deficient condition. After vines have filled out the trellis change to a high potash fertilizer such as 4-12-12. Mature vines will need two to six pounds per plant. Vine growth on a mature vineyard should average eighteen to twenty-four inches per year. If more growth than this occurs cut down on the nitrogen, if less, use more nitrogen. **CAUTION** — **Do not let fertilizer or manure come in direct contact with the roots.**

PLAN — We recommend that one hundred eighty plants be set per acre, spacing the plants twenty feet apart in the row. The rows should be twelve feet apart. This will require one hundred sixty female (bearing) plants and twenty pollinator or self-fertile plants per acre. The object of spacing pollinator plants throughout the vineyard is to get even distribution of pollen on all plants. A diagram should be drawn for the spacing of pollinator plants in the vineyard. A simple plan, plant a pollinator every third vine on every third row. For small vineyards, it is recommended that one pollinator be plant-

ed for each one to twelve bearing vines. The pollinator should be placed as near the center as possible. We suggest the following plan for larger vineyards:



Heavy line indicates one acre.

Blocks of nine vines with the pollinator vine in the center are used throughout the vineyard.

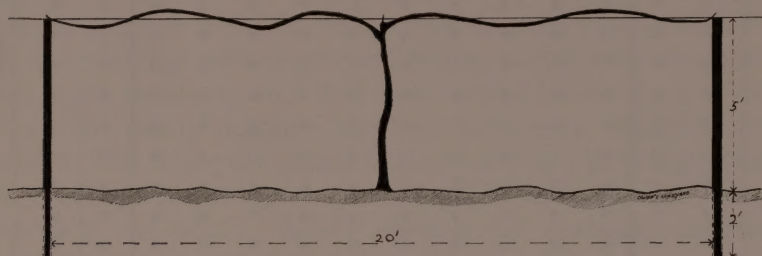
These blocks may be extended in all directions.

These blocks are staggered to give pollinator vines in each row.

The trellis should run from north to south.

TRELLIS — The trellis is constructed of six and one-half or seven foot posts (best obtainable locally, steel, treated wood or concrete) set about two feet in the ground. The end posts should be heavy posts at least eight feet long set at least three

feet in the ground and securely braced. One strand of No. 9 gauge smooth, galvanized wire is fastened on top of the line posts and tied to the end posts. Vines should be planted midway between posts and directly under the wire. The trellis should be erected before the vines are set or at least by the time growth on the plants starts. In large vineyards it is important to plan roadways at certain intervals allowing enough space for turning trucks, tractors, etc. Recent experiments have shown that mature vines will produce as much fruit on a one wire trellis, as on a two wire trellis. This is a saving on wire and pruning, where land is not an economic factor.



TRELLIS PLAN

TRANSPLANTING — Vines should be set out in the permanent location as soon as possible after shipment. If the permanent location is not prepared or the land is too wet to work, the vines may be heeled-in, in well drained soil for a few days until planting preparations can be made. In large vineyards the plowing of subsoil furrows to intersect at the proper location of the plants will save time and labor. Only a few shovels full of dirt will have to be moved with this method. **CAUTION** — **Keep roots of vines wet at all times.** The most common cause for loss of vines is the drying out of the root system. Cut off all broken or injured roots. Dig holes large enough so that the roots may be spread out without being cramped. Muscadine grapes are shallow rooted and must not be planted too deep, holes should be about ten to twelve inches deep. Fill the hole half full of topsoil, and water or pack well, then fill hole level full of topsoil. A mulch is very good to retain soil moisture around newly-set plants.

CULTIVATION — Frequent, shallow and clean cultivation is necessary the first two years. Low growing crops may be planted between rows the first two years but this is not encouraged. Keep all grass and weeds from around the plants. **Never cultivate deep at any time**, three inches being the maximum depth. After vines reach bearing age a rotary mower is the best tool with which to cultivate vineyards. Enough summer growth should be left on the land to control soil erosion, this may be done by mowing regularly so as to control weeds and grass. Siamizene W (50%) will control weeds and grass under the trellis when applied at the rate of three pounds per acre. A winter cover crop of clover is recommended. With the one wire trellis some grazing can be done in winter. Do not graze after growth starts on the grape vines in the spring.

SPRAYING — Muscadine grapes is one of the few fruits that can be grown **without spraying** for insects or diseases. On all plants of Muscadine grapes there will be small black or brown spots on the foliage caused by black rot fungus. There is no need for alarm about this because the resulting injury is insignificant. Vineyard sanitation (removal of prunings, dead leaves hanging on vines and mummied fruit on vines) will help control black rot.

PRUNING and TRAINING — The best time to prune Mus-



- A. Shows development of main arm.
- B. Shows development of fruit spurs.
- C. Shows continued development of fruit spurs.
- D. Shows mature fruit spurs.

cadine grape vines is as soon as frost kills the leaves. Vines pruned before leaves fall may get sun scald. Bleeding will occur when vines are pruned after the first of January. Experimental



HIGGINS

You can grow Muscadine Grapes like
these with our New Improved Varieties



HUNT

work has shown that it is safe to prune Muscadines any time while dormant. Vines pruned in February and March will bleed profusely, however, no injury will be caused. The object of dormant pruning is to balance vegetative and fruit growth.

New plants will need pruning in summer until they have filled out the trellis. Remove all growth that is not growing where it is needed. After the vine is planted a string should be tied near the top of the new plant and pulled up to and tied to the wire. Select the healthiest shoot to come out below the string and train it up to the wire. Remove all side shoots that come out, up to the two which come on opposite sides of the vine, just below the wire. These are trained along the wire to form the main arms. All side shoots that come out from the main arms should be cut back to two or three buds in the dormant pruning. This is the formation of the fruiting spurs which will be two to three inches long. After fruiting spurs are formed the current year's growth should be pruned back each year to two or three buds. The arms and all other growth should be stopped at the posts by cutting everything off at the post.

AGE OF BEARING — If vines receive good attention, a ton of fruit per acre (twelve pounds per vine) may be expected the third year. This depends entirely on how fast the plants have grown. Only a few bunches per vine may be expected the second year. Production should increase until vines reach maturity in about ten years. Mature vineyards will produce regularly for forty or fifty years or longer. There is a record of one vine which has produced for over three hundred and eighty years. **CAUTION** — a little extra attention while the vines are young will bring extra production in later years.

HARVESTING — Three methods (shaking, stripping and clipping) are commonly used in harvesting Muscadine grapes. The fastest and most economical method is shaking the fruit from the vines on to sheets, either spread on the ground or suspended by some type of frame. Fruit harvested by this method is damaged to some extent, however, it is acceptable to the wine trade. Fruit to be used for fresh eating must be either

clipped in bunches or stripped from the bunch into buckets or baskets.

KINDS OF MUSCADINE GRAPES

There are three kinds of Muscadine grape plants, pistillate, staminate and perfect-flowered.

The pistillate is commonly known as the bearing-variety or female plant.

The staminate is the male plant which does not bear fruit but pollinates the bearing varieties.

The perfect-flowered (self-fertile) plant produces fruit and will pollinate itself and other bearing varieties.

It is necessary to have pollinator varieties, perfect-flowered or male, in close proximity to bearing (female) varieties. Experiments have shown that female vines more than fifty feet from a pollinator are greatly reduced in production, sometimes as much as fifty percent or more. The perfect-flowered varieties will pollinate all female varieties without regard to color and will not affect or influence the color or flavor of the female variety. All female or pistillate varieties are self-sterile and produce no fruit except when pollinated by perfect-flowered or male varieties.

POLLINATING VARIETIES

DEARING — Perfect-flowered; bronze; clusters, medium; skin, thin; fruit, medium to small; Quality, Excellent; production, heavy; ripens mid-season, around September 15th; the best bronze perfect-flowered muscadine. Dearing is a new variety released by the United States Department of Agriculture, Horticultural Field Station, Meridian, Mississippi.

MAGOON — Perfect-flowered; reddish-black; clusters, medium to large; fruit, medium to small; Quality, Excellent; production, heavy; ripens mid-season, around September 15th; the

best black perfect-flowered muscadine. The newest variety to be released by the USDA Horticultural Field Station, Meridian, Mississippi. Magoon is recommended as the best perfect-flowered variety for planting in the extreme South or Coastal Plains area. It is equally as good in all sections.

✓ **BURGAW** and **TARHEEL** (black), **WILLARD** and **WALLACE** (bronze) are other perfect-flowered varieties.

BRONZE PISTILLATE VARIETIES

✓ **HIGGINS** — Clusters, large; pink to reddish bronze; skin, thick, edible; fruit, very large; quality, good; production, very heavy; ripens, mid-season to late, around September 20th. The largest of all muscadines, a new variety developed by the Georgia Experiment Station, Experiment, Georgia. A valuable addition to any vineyard.

✓ **SCUPPERNONG** — Clusters, medium; bronze; fruit, medium to large; skin, medium to thin; quality, excellent; ripens around September 4th. The best known and most widely grown variety of Muscadine grape. It is sweet with a good flavor.

✓ **TOPSAIL** — Clusters, small to medium; bronze; fruit, large; skin, medium to thick; quality, excellent; persistence, good; vine, vigorous; ripens around September 12th. A good variety for home vineyards; very good and sweet.

✓ **YUGA** — Clusters, large; fruit, medium; skin, thin; light bronze; quality, excellent; ripens around October 1st. Yuga hangs on the vine well after the fruit is full ripe, often until frost.

BLACK PISTILLATE VARIETIES

✓ **CREEK** — Clusters, large; fruit, medium; skin, very thin; reddish purple; quality, excellent; persistence, fair; ripens around October 5th. Creek has the thinnest skin of all varieties and is regarded as the best wine grape. Creek is considered very good by those who like flavor with a tart sweetness. Hangs on vine until frost.

✓ **DULCET** — Clusters, medium; fruit, medium; skin, medium; reddish purple; quality, excellent; very persistent; hangs on vines well after fruit is full ripe, ripens around September 16th. One of the best varieties for fresh eating. Recommended for home vineyards.

✓ **HUNT** — Clusters, large; fruit, medium to large; skin, medium to thin; black; quality, excellent; ripens around September 10th. Hunt is the best all-purpose dark grape. It is excellent for wine, unfermented juice, jelly and jams and all other commercial purposes. Highly recommended for both home and commercial vineyards.

✓ **THOMAS** — Clusters, large and compact; fruit, small; skin, thin; reddish purple; quality, excellent; vine, vigorous; ripens around September 14th. When eating it pops with a pleasing surprise. Thomas is one of the best varieties for making unfermented juice. Thomas has a flavor of its own.

OTHER VARIETIES

We propagate other varieties in limited quantity, at \$2.00 each. Several of this list are good for the larger home vineyards, giving more range to the ripening period and more variety in flavor.

BRONZE VARIETIES

✓ Brownie
✓ Cape Fear
✓ Dawn
✓ Howard
✓ Lucida
✓ Morrison
✓ New River
✓ November
✓ San Rubra
✓ Stanford
✓ Stuckey

BLACK VARIETIES

✓ Creswell
✓ Duplin
✓ Flowers
✓ Irene
✓ James
✓ Kilgore
✓ LaBama
✓ LaSalle
✓ Latham
✓ Luola
✓ Memory
✓ SanMonta
✓ Mish
✓ SanJaCinto
✓ Qualitas
✓ Onslow
✓ Scott
✓ Scott's Imperial
✓ Smith
✓ Spaulding

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALES

RETAIL ORDERS will not be shipped before December 1st. Shipping season lasts until March 15th. C. O. D. shipments will be made when twenty five percent of total order is received in cash.

ADD 25% ON ALL ORDERS FOR DELIVERY BEFORE NOVEMBER 15TH.

TERMS—Cash, unless credit arrangements are made before shipment.

GUARANTEE—We guarantee our stock to be well grown, true to name and properly packed. In no case shall our liability exceed the original invoice value. Our responsibility ceases on delivery to the transportation company. Any complaint must be made in writing to us within ten days after receipt of shipment.

SHIPPING—Please give full shipping instructions with each order; otherwise we shall use our best judgment. All stock will be shipped bare root, packed in peat or sphagnum moss.

CAUTION—We accept all orders subject to crop conditions and on condition that same shall be void should injury befall our stock from hail, fire, frost, error in count, or other causes beyond our control. All orders are accepted without liability for non-performance, if labor shortages or delay in transportation should prevent us from making delivery. Do not buy any nursery stock that does not have a Department of Entomology certificate attached. This certificate is your protection against inferior stock, and peddlers of such stock.

OWEN'S VINEYARD is cooperating with The Georgia Department of Entomology, The Georgia Experiment Station, The North Carolina Experiment Station, and The USDA Horticultural Field Station, Meridian, Mississippi, to supply the best Muscadine varieties and to supply new and better varieties as they are made available.

JAN 16 1963

PRICE LIST
1962 - 1963 SEASON

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

	<u>2 yr. size</u>	<u>1 yr. size</u>
1 - 10 VINES. . .	\$1.25 each	\$1.00 each
10 - 25 VINES. . .	1.00 each	.90 each
25 - 50 VINES. . .	.85 each	.75 each
50 -100 VINES. . .	.75 each	.65 each
HIGGINS vines. . .	1.35 each	1.25 each
DEARING vines. . .	1.50 each	1.35 each
MAGOON vines . . .	1.50 each	1.35 each
Add 50¢ per order for postage and packing		

FOR LONGEST FRUITING SEASON WE OFFER

Collection No. 1
\$7.50 Post Paid
2 Year Plants
HUNT
SCUPPERNONG
YUGA
HIGGINS
DEARING
MAGOON

Collection No. 2
\$12.00 Post Paid
2 Year Plants
HUNT-2 vines
SCUPPERNONG
TOPSAIL
DULCET
CREEK
YUGA
DEARING
HIGGINS
MAGOON

Collection No. 3
\$4.50 Post Paid
2 Year Plants
HIGGINS
DEARING
MAGOON

Allow 20 feet of trellis for each vine

OWEN'S VINEYARD

M. Aubrey Owen, Prop.

Office Phone 2574 Residence Phone 2571
Highway 85, 4 miles North of
GAY, GEORGIA



